

PROPOSED HOYT RESTORATION PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

February 5, 2010

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing an integrated restoration management strategy to restore and protect the shrubland community on up to 3,820 acres within the Hoyt wildfire area which most recently burned in August 2009. The restoration strategy would include a chemical treatment to control the annual weed (cheatgrass) invasion and a reseeding effort to reestablish the sagebrush, forb, and perennial grass species in the shrubland community. An Environmental Assessment regarding the proposed herbicide treatment will be prepared and a Decision Record would be signed prior to the implementation of any broadcast herbicide application. The reseeding effort would be consistent with the Normal Year Fire Rehabilitation Plan Environmental Assessment NV-030-02-07.

The purpose of this notification is two-fold: first, to ensure that local landowners and other interested stakeholders are aware of the proposal; and second, for the BLM to consider public comments regarding this proposed action before continuing with the planning process.

The BLM proposes to use Imazapic, which is an herbicide that has recently been approved for use by federal agencies on public lands to combat invasive/noxious weeds. This herbicide is of particular interest due to its ability to curtail the growth of cheatgrass and other selected broadleaf weeds. Ideally the treatment would occur after the first wetting rain in the fall of 2010 and before the existing cheatgrass seed germinates. Late October into December would be considered based on weather conditions and resource protection measures. The treatment is expected to take approximately 2 weeks, depending on weather conditions.

Cheatgrass is an annual species that is undesirable, non-native, and provides little soil protection and/or foraging value. Cheatgrass has a competitive advantage over the native plant communities because of its abundant seed source, annual growth pattern, dominance within the plant community, and aggressive growth habits particularly in post-fire environments. The dominance of cheatgrass and other annual plant species creates a situation of increased fire hazard by providing a flashy fuel source.

This situation currently exists in and around the area burned in the Hoyt fire of 2009. The fire return interval for this area should be every 35-100 years. Approximately 5,500 acres, burned in the 2009 Hoyt fire, has burned twice in the last ten years and over 2,000 additional acres have burned three times in the last decade. The cycle of wildfire and annual weed invasion has disrupted proper ecosystem function, increased the size, intensity and frequency of wildfire, reduced plant and animal diversity, and set the stage for invasion by secondary perennial weeds that are even more difficult to control. These losses are accelerating and costly, not only in loss and endangerment of species and ecosystems, but also in risks to human life and property and in public and private expenditures associated with wildfires.

We are soliciting your comments on this proposal to help identify any issues or concerns so they may be considered in the environmental analysis and decision making process. Please be specific in describing your concerns, recommendations, or how the proposal may affect you. Please send your comments regarding this project by March 1, 2010 so that we can incorporate them into our planning process as early as possible.

Please send your comments to: Keith Barker (Fire Ecologist), Bureau of Land Management, Carson City District, 5665 Morgan Mill Rd., Carson City, NV 89701. You may also contact Keith at 775-885-6120 (office), 775-885-6106 (fax), or e-mail comments to kdbarker@blm.gov.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment-including your personal identifying information-may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

For additional information regarding this vegetation treatment project you may contact the following BLM staff by phone or email:

BLM Fire Ecologist: Keith Barker, phone (775) 885-6120, email kdbarker@blm.gov

BLM Fuels Specialist: Tim Roide, phone (775) 885-6185, email troide@blm.gov

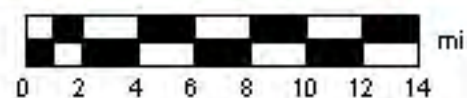
BLM Wildlife Biologist: John Wilson, phone (775) 885-6191, email John_Wilson@blm.gov



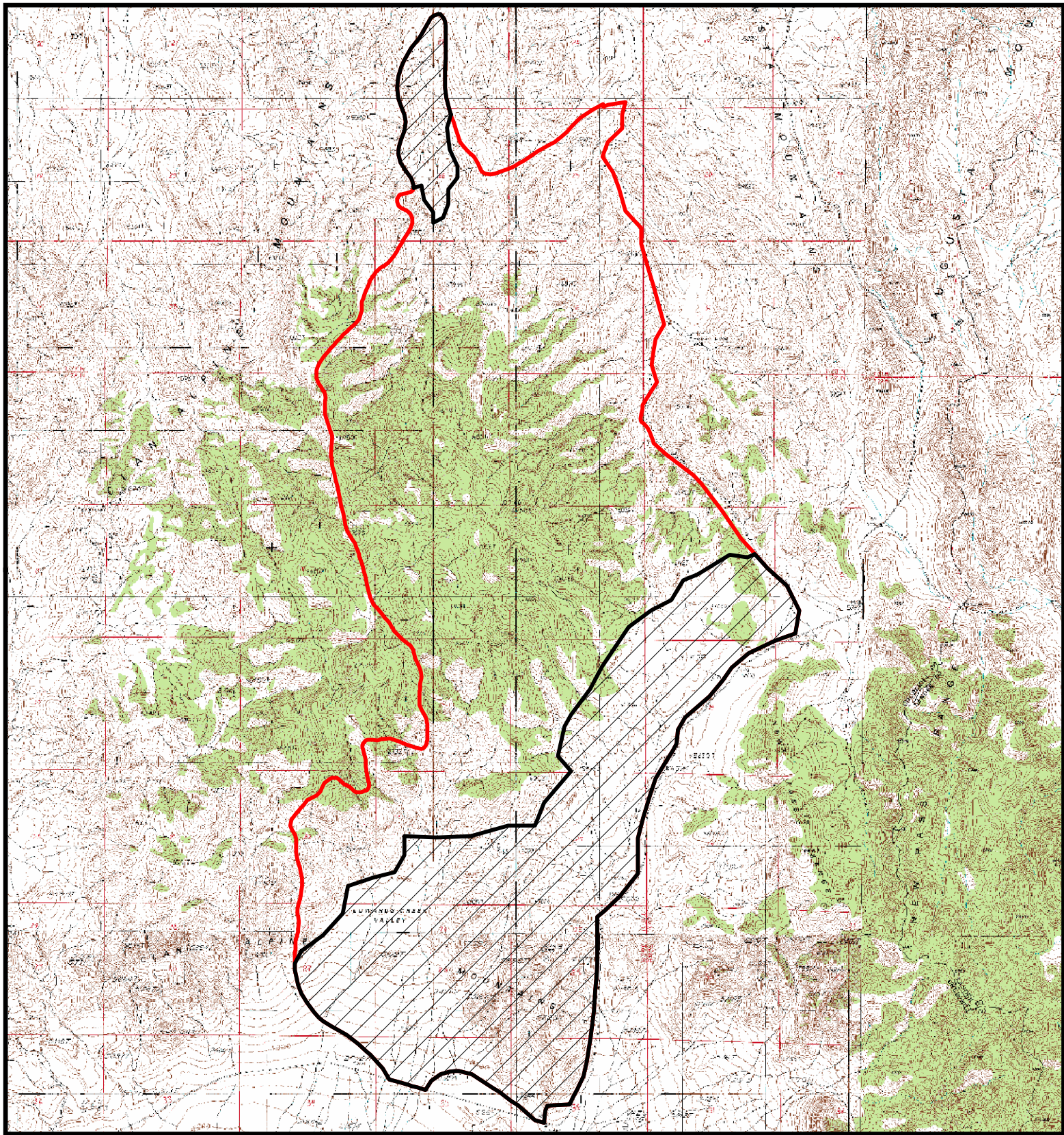
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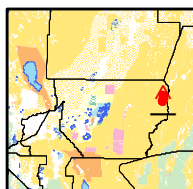
Legend

 Hoyt Fire Perimeter (10,670 acres)

 Project Area (3,820 Acres)

7.5 minute Map Reference
 Gilbert Creek SW 39117 g4
 Shoshone Meadows 39117 g5
 New Pass Peak 39117 f4
 New Pass Well 39117 f5

Hoyt Treatment Area



Bureau of Land Management Carson City District Fuels Management Hoyt Restoration Project 2009

United States Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
 Carson City District
 5665 Morgan Mill Road
 Carson City, NV 89701



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